

MEMORANDUM FOR: DCI

[redacted] will have his
memo to you later today or first
thing tomorrow covering influence
of the Nitze project last summer
on NIE 11-3/8.

Keith

Date 23 Mar 82

MEMORANDUM FOR: DCI

Attached ^{24 MAR 1982}



memo re the Nitze project and
NIE 11-318.

Attached also are copies of
your letters to Nitze and Weinberger
commenting on the study.

Keith

Date 24 Mar 82

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24 March 1982

POINT PAPER FOR THE DCICONTRIBUTION OF THE "NITZE STUDY" TO NATIONAL INTELLIGENCE

The Mission Capabilities Task Force Study was conducted by an interagency group chaired by Mr. Paul Nitze to demonstrate an approach for studying how the Soviets assess the capabilities of their nuclear forces to carry out the mission called for by Soviet strategy. The following points relate to the contribution of the study process and of the final report to the production of national intelligence.

--The study was conducted at a time of controversy about the proper content of NIEs on Soviet strategic programs and at a time when the DCI was seeking a more satisfactory approach. Such changes in the past have rarely been by fiat, but by a consensus among those whose views are highly respected. The approach proposed by Mr. Nitze was essentially that adopted in this year's NIE 11-3/8, although, like the Mission Capabilities study, the NIE is substantively incomplete because of gaps in intelligence and unknowable factors. The approach:

- The USSR's strategic nuclear capabilities must be analyzed from the Soviets' perspective.
- Assessment of Soviet strategic nuclear capabilities cannot focus on a massive nuclear exchange, but must include its antecedents and the consequences of that event for protracted conflict and the outcome of the conflict.

--This new approach to NIE 11-3/8 is much more difficult, and the Nitze study process and the final report demonstrated many of the key problems and limits of the analyses we could expect to include in the National Estimate.

--Although there were several problems with the quantitative calculations of Soviet mission capabilities in the study, they were informative and in some cases quantified uncertainties about factors critical to Soviet mission capabilities. Among them:



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--Agency representatives working on NIE 11-3/8-81 tried wherever possible to cast descriptive material and judgments in the context of Soviet perspectives. The approach advocated by Mr. Nitze contributed to this new sensitivity and orientation of agency representatives.

--In general, the analytical approach demonstrated by the Nitze study is that being taken in the interagency net assessment, although, this year the net assessment will probably not attempt some of the force interaction calculations done for the Mission Capabilities Study.

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